

WOODHULL (A.A.)

[Report of the Medical Department of the Colorado, for the fiscal year 1896.]



With the compliments of
Gen. Hunter *A. A. Woodhouse*
APPENDIX K.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLORADO. ✓

CHIEF SURGEON'S OFFICE.

Denver, Colorado, August 8, 1896.

To

The Adjutant General.

Department of the Colorado:

SIR:

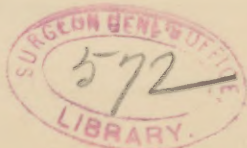
I have the honor to present for the information of the Department Commander this report of the Medical Department for the fiscal year, 1896.

The mean strength of the command for the year, as reported by the medical officers, was: officers, 172; enlisted men, white, 2,443, colored, 603, total 3,046; aggregate, 3,218. There were no Indian soldiers. These figures are probably somewhat less than those of the military returns, because there are always a few detached officers and men not within the immediate observation of the medical department. Nevertheless, as any genuine illness or accident among these would ultimately be reported, the vital statistics that follow may be depended upon as not unduly favorable.

Inasmuch as, especially in peace, officers and men are practically distinct classes, differentiated by conditions of social life and of duty, their statistics are presented separately.

The 172 officers of all grades present represented 62,952 days of possible duty. These officers lost 800 days by sickness and 141 by injury; total ineffective 941, or an average of 5.47 days per officer.

In addition to the foregoing there were 11 officers belonging to the department outside of its limits on account of sickness 1,439 days. There were also two other officers, dropped from the medical reports when transferred, in the Government Hospital for the Insane a part of this time, one of whom was wholly retired. One officer died from disease contracted on duty.



The principal sickness of officers present was:

Character of Disability.	Days lost.
Epidemic Influenza.....	99
Nervous Affections	113
Diseases of the Digestive System	75
Hemorrhoids (6 cases)	135
Diseases of the respiratory organs	79
Bright's disease (one case)	122
TOTAL.....	623

The other sicknesses were not important in character or duration.

The death was from influenza complicated with pleurisy.

The ineffectiveness by injury was: Contusions and sprains 80 days, fractures 30 days, and the remaining 31 days taken up with six other conditions of a few days each.

Twelve officers were absent on account of sickness 1,439 days; the causes and periods were:

Malarial cachexia (one case).....	123 days.
Glycosuria (one case).....	123 "
Diseases of the nervous system.....	477 "
Surgical diseases of the bowels.....	422 "
Abscess of the lung.....	48 "
Chronic nephritis (Bright's disease), two cases.....	172 "
Chronic rheumatism.....	74 "

At the close of the fiscal year two officers, both apparently permanently disabled, were absent sick.

The ineffectiveness of the enlisted men, excluding 5 sent into the department for treatment and including to the date of

their departure 23 transferred out of the department, reckoned by days, was:

White	27,130	Cavalry	12,227
Colored	5,542	Infantry	20,286
Total	32,672	H. C. and N. C. S.	159
		Total	32,672

This represents for the department at large a daily loss of 89.27 days, or a yearly loss per man of 10.72 days. That is, the percentage of constantly ineffective from all causes was 2.93. In detail it is white 3.03, colored 2.51.

Unfortunately there are no figures at my disposal that show the strength by arms, consequently the interesting relation of ineffectiveness to branch of the service cannot be represented.

This ineffectiveness consisted of 26,023 days or 8.54 per man on duty, and 6,649 or 2.18 per man not on duty. It was made up of 17,713 days' sickness on duty, or 5.81 per man, and 8,310 days' injury on duty or 2.73 per man, and 5,666 days' sickness not on duty or 1.86 per man and 983 days' injury not on duty or .32 per man.

Although it is customary to show the whole number of admissions to sick report and also by the thousand of strength, I do not regard such figures of any real importance, because there is no necessary or indeed actual relation between the cases and the days lost; that is, between the admissions and the ineffectiveness. A case of colic and one of typhoid fever would each represent an admission, but their respective ineffectiveness might be one day and seventy. Nevertheless, the actual admissions were for sickness 2,527 or 830 per M., for injury 887 or 291 per M., total 3,414 or 1,121 per thousand.

Of the ineffectiveness from sickness in the line of duty 859 days were lost by vaccinia, due to the direct transfer of unvaccinated recruits to the posts. Although this is true mili-

tary ineffectiveness, it should always be disregarded in considering the healthfulness of a station or of a command. It is an incident of the service, not a condition of the post.

The more important classes of disease incurred in the line of duty bore the following relation to the various posts:

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

POST.	Mean Strength	Days Lost.	Percentage constantly ineffective.
Whipple.....	261	96	.10
Bayard.....	368	148	.11
Wingate.....	265	160	.17
Logan.....	600	662	.30
Department.....	3046	1066	.96

AFFECTIONS OF THE LUNGS.

DuChesne.....	110	7	.017
Grant.....	310	74	.065
Logan.....	600	215	.038
Whipple.....	261	96	.10
Douglas.....	496	245	.134
Bayard.....	368	172	.135
Apache.....	297	181	.16
Huachuca.....	254	160	.17
Wingate.....	265	228	.237
Department.....	3046	1378	.124

MALARIAL DISEASES.

Wingate.....	265	332	.34
All other posts.....	2781	703	.07
Department.....	3046	1035	.09

AFFECTIONS OF THE BOWELS.

POST.	Mean Strength.	Days Lost.	Percentage constantly ineffective.
DuChesne.....	110	33	.082
Bayard.....	368	113	.085
Douglas.....	496	367	.202
Whipple.....	261	193	.203
Wingate.....	265	209	.217
Logan.....	600	525	.239
Grant.....	310	392	.266
Huachuca.....	254	120	.27
San Carlos.....	47	54	.314
Apache....	297	376	.346
Department.....	3046	2292	.205

RHEUMATISM, ARTICULAR AND MUSCULAR.

Apache.....	297	33	.035
Logan.....	600	353	.106
San Carlos.....	47	23	.134
Grant.....	310	157	.14
Whipple.....	261	146	.153
Bayard.....	368	258	.19
Douglas.....	496	373	.205
DuChesne.....	110	86	.21
Huachuca.....	254	374	.40
Wingate.....	265	592	.615
Department.....	3046	2405	.216

Thirteen cases of typhoid fever occurred among the men at three posts, with an aggregate loss of 674 days. This is equivalent to a daily ineffectiveness, distributed throughout the De-

partment, of .06 per cent. But as is well known, the military gravity of typhoid fever depends upon its duration and its fatality. The mortality was two, or about 15.4 per cent. of those treated.

The principal daily loss from disease not incurred in the line of duty was of venereal or alcoholic origin, or existed before enlistment.

This loss is shown in the following table, but as the injuries following alcoholism are also included in a later table, care must be taken not to combine these in judging of the total ineffectiveness not in the line of duty.

Days lost by diseases not incurred in the line of duty including all the effects of alcoholism with percentage of mean strength.

POSTS.	From Alcohol.		From Venereal.		From other Diseases.		Total.	
	Days lost.	Percentage	Days lost.	Percentage.	Days lost.	Percentage.	Days lost.	Percentage.
Stanton .....	....	....	....	....	2	.017	2	.017
Wingate.....	68	.071	200	.21	....	....	268	.278
DuChesne.....	3	.007	125	.31	....	....	128	.318
Apache.....	56	.05	309	.28	9	.008	374	.344
Whipple.....	108	.113	249	.27	8	.008	365	.382
Douglas.....	68	.04	583	.32	94	.052	745	.410
Huachuca.....	27	.029	305	.33	70	.075	402	.432
Grant.....	37	.03	437	.39	71	.063	545	.480
San Carlos.....	....	....	92	.53	2	.012	94	.546
Bayard	27	.02	722	.54	76	.056	825	.612
Logan.....	231	.105	1652	.75	199	.091	2082	.948
Department.....	625	.056	4674	.42	531	.048	5830	.523

The loss by days from injuries in the line of duty, subdivided by classes and arranged by posts in the order of constant ineffectiveness is,—

POSTS.	Days Lost.							Percentage ineffective.
	Abrasions.	Contusions and sprains.	Fractures.	Gun shot wounds.	Wounds not gun shot.	Other injuries.	Total.	
Stanton .....	....	14	....	....	4	....	18	.150
Huachuca.....	....	100	36	....	145	50	331	.356
Whipple.....	53	79	....	....	154	96	382	.400
Bayard	26	433	....	47	146	153	805	.598
Douglas	18	442	274	....	271	83	1088	.599
Logan.....	80	771	129	....	267	97	1344	.612
DuChesne	8	162	66	....	28	20	284	.705
San Carlos.....	20	27	9	63	16	27	162	.942
Wingate.....	52	346	201	36	110	252	997	1.035
Grant	9	514	198	140	247	141	1249	1.101
Apache.....	113	571	364	....	358	244	1650	1.519
Department.....	379	3459	1277	286	1746	1163	8310	.745

None of the wounds, gun shot or other, was received in action. The increased interest in athletics is responsible for part of the contusions and sprains.

The loss by days from injuries not in the line of duty, arranged as in the last table, is:

POSTS.	Days Lost.							Percentage ineffective.
	Abrasions.	Contusions and Sprains.	Fractures.	Gun Shot Wounds.	Wounds not gun shot.	Other Injuries.	Total.	
San Carlos.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Stanton.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
DuChesne.....	....	....	....	....	15	....	15	.037
Bayard.....	....	5	....	....	45	....	50	.04
Grant .....	....	39	....	....	5	24	68	.06
Douglas.....	9	65	....	19	11	38	142	.073
Apache.....	....	23	33	....	46	5	107	.098
Wingate .....	....	34	57	....	5	....	96	.099
Huachuca .....	....	....	....	68	35	....	103	.111
Whipple.....	....	22	84	....	12	....	118	.124
Logan.....	2	109	23	28	15	107	284	.129
Department.....	11	297	197	115	189	174	983	.088

The loss by days from all causes combined among the enlisted men, arranged in the order of constant ineffectiveness, was as follows:

POSTS.	From Sickness.			From Injury.			Sickness and Injury combined.			Possible number of days on duty.	Percentage constantly ineffective.
	In line of duty.	Not in line of duty.	Total.	In line of duty.	Not in line of duty.	Total.	In line of duty.	Not in line of duty.	Aggregate.		
*Stanton	35	2	37	18	.....	18	53	2	55	12018	.782
DuChesne	459	128	587	284	15	299	743	143	886	40260	2.201
Bayard	1689	831	2520	805	50	855	2494	881	3375	134688	2.506
Douglas	2595	726	3321	1048	142	1290	3683	868	4551	181536	2.507
Huachuca	1569	400	1969	332	103	435	1841	503	2344	92364	2.521
Whipple	1710	359	2069	382	118	500	2362	477	2839	95526	2.689
San Carlos	218	94	312	162	.....	162	280	94	474	17292	2.755
Grant	1265	577	1842	1248	68	1316	2513	645	3158	113460	2.785
Apache	1405	355	1760	1647	107	1754	3052	462	3514	108702	3.233
Logan	4372	1983	6355	1349	284	1633	5721	2267	7988	219600	3.698
Wingate	2456	211	2667	995	96	1091	3451	307	3758	96330	3.901
Department	17713	5666	23379	8310	983	9293	26023	6649	32672	1114836	2.849

* Fort Stanton was discontinued 16th January, 1885. The actual number of days lost is given, but the possible days of duty and the percentage of ineffectiveness are calculated upon the basis of a completed year.

The deaths of the enlisted men were seventeen, distributed as follows:

	Logan.	Whipple.	Grant.	DuChesne.	Douglas.	Bayard.	Apache.	Hunchuca.	San Carlos.	Wingate.	Total
Typhoid Fever.....	1	1									2
Erysipelas.....		1									1
Tetanus, after gun shot.....			1								1
Tuberculosis, acute.....				1							1
Alcoholism (not on sick rep.).....					1						1
Gastritis.....							1				1
Hepatic abscess.....								1			1
Pneumonia.....		1									1
Accidental violence.....			2								2
Homicide.....								2			2
Suicide.....					2				1	1	4
Total.....	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	17

Of diseases actually treated there were eight fatal cases, Seven of the other deaths were immediate with no possibility of treatment, and two promptly followed serious injury to the brain. The remaining seven cases of original disease represent .316 percentage of the admissions. The tetanus following gun shot was .113 per cent. of the injuries admitted.

Discharges for disability: including cases discharged by order as well as on formal certificates, and those transferred to the Government Hospital for the Insane:

	Occurring in line of duty.	Occurring not in line of duty.	
Rheumatic fever	1	..	
Tuberculosis of lungs .....	..	1	Before enlistment.
Syphilis .....	..	11	1 before enlistment
Gonorrhœa .....	..	2	
Alcoholism, chronic, .....	..	1	
Epilepsy .....	..	1	Before enlistment.
Insanity	2	..	
Paralysis	1	..	
Neuralgia	1	1	
Paresis	1	..	
Somnambulism .....	..	1	Before enlistment.
Enteritis	1	..	
Appendicitis, chronic, .....	..	1	Before enlistment.
Valvular disease of the heart	2	1	Before enlistment.
Bronchitis	1	..	
Nephritis, chronic, ... ..	..	1	Before enlistment.
Varicocele .....	..	1	Before enlistment.
Chronic rheumatic arthritis	1*	..	
Splay feet .....	..	2	Before enlistment.
Chronic inflammation eyelids .....	..	1	Before enlistment
Opacity of the cornea	1	..	
Inflammation middle ear	1	..	
Concussion of the spine	1	..	
Contusions and sprains	3*	..	
Fractures	2†	..	
Hernia, inguinal,	2	..	
Loss of fingers by injury	3	..	
Wound, punctured,	1	..	
Wounds, gun shot,	2	..	
Chronic inflammation foot after } wounds by cactus spines	1* }	..	
Total.....	28	25	

* 1 at Army and Navy General Hospital.

† 1 at Jefferson Barracks.

Eighteen men were transferred for treatment to the Army and Navy General Hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and at the commencement of the year there were five cases from this Department in that Hospital, making twenty-three to be accounted for. Of these fifteen were returned to duty, four were discharged for disability, including one at Jefferson Barracks whither he had been sent for trial, and four remained there under treatment. Of those returned to duty two have since been discharged for disability.

The total loss to the service by physical disability has been 5.548 per thousand by deaths and 17.30 per thousand by discharges, total 22.52 per thousand. Of those not in the line of duty five of the deaths were from homicide or suicide, and one from alcoholism not on sick report. The total deaths in the line of duty are therefore 2.937 per thousand.

The ratio per thousand of discharges for disability in the line of duty, including those discharged after transfer to the General Hospital, was 9.14. The rate of discharge per thousand for disability not in the line of duty was 8.16, and about three per thousand of these were discharged for disabilities that might have been detected by ordinary observation at a depot.

The rate of discharge as reported last year was 3.49 per thousand less than that of this year, but the former statistics did not include the cases of disability discharged by order nor those discharged at the General Hospital. It is neither the form nor the place of a discharge but the reason for it that should admit it among such statistics as these.

One man was sent to Fort Leavenworth to be operated upon for hernia, concerning whom no report has been received.

The death rate from all causes is 1.35 per thousand in excess of that reported for 1895. This appears to depend upon an increase in suicides and very severe accidents.

The formal reports required by the medical regulations are very full in every particular of the military history and the character of the disability in each case, but there is no analy-

sis of the mass of details by which the number of disabilities of one kind or the ineffectiveness from each group can be determined at once. With the assent of the Department Commander there has been required from medical officers a numerical report of disabled enlisted men, showing the number of cases of each kind of disease and injury admitted and treated during the month, the days lost and the disposition of the cases. These reports are consolidated in this office to show for each post the days lost by sickness and by injury and whether on duty or not, with the percentage of ineffectiveness, and this information has been furnished the medical officers monthly. Every post retains a copy of its own numerical report. Those on file in this office permit easy comparison of the character of the various disabilities month by month, and the published summaries afford a basis of comparison, not only as to the condition of the posts among themselves but also for every post with itself at different seasons.

A preceding table has given the constant disability from all causes combined, which shows the daily military ineffectiveness at each post. But the sanitary ineffectiveness is, speaking generally, that from disease alone. Omitting Fort Stanton, discontinued in January and garrisoned by only a single troop of cavalry but marked by very high effectiveness, the relations of the various posts to each other and to the general

health of the Department, for sickness and for injury separately are:

POSTS.	Percentage of constant ineffectiveness from sickness.	POSTS.	Percentage of constant ineffectiveness from injury.
DuChesne.....	1.458	Huachuca.....	.468
Apache.....	1.619	Whipple.....	.523
Grant.....	1.623	Bayard.....	.635
San Carlos	1.813	Douglas.....	.677
Douglas.....	1.829	DuChesne. ....	.743
Bayard.....	1.871	Logan.....	.744
Huachuca.....	2.053	San Carlos.....	.942
Whipple.....	2.166	Wingate.....	1.123
Wingate.....	2.768	Grant.....	1.160
Logan.....	2.894	Apache.....	1.616
Department.....	2.177	Department.....	.841

FORT APACHE, A. T.

The sick rate at Fort Apache has been very low, but the post is very far down in the list of combined ineffectiveness owing to its inordinately high rate of injuries. The relative ineffectiveness from injury places this post at the bottom of the list with nearly double the percentage of the department at large.

FORT BAYARD, N. M.

Notwithstanding Fort Bayard has a very imperfect system of sewage disposal and is believed by the Surgeon to be under constant risk from that source, it has maintained a very creditable relative position. Fort Bayard suffered from a moderate epidemic of influenza but from no other general morbid cause. Repeated intelligent explanation of the state of the sewerage, supported at this office, has secured no relief. There is reason to fear an outbreak of disease may occur should the sewage become infected.

FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH.

An increased water supply has been introduced within the year. The disposition of the sewage which has long been a vexed question is yet unsettled. In 1892 the Medical Director of the Department to which Fort Douglas then belonged repeated his former recommendation that the sewage should be disposed of by sub-surface irrigation. The surgeon there has independently made the same recommendation, which has been approved in this office, but no final action has been taken. The ventilation of the barracks has been much improved by simple measures initiated by the medical officer, and it is believed that sickness has thus been avoided. Notwithstanding the proximity of a large town, the disability not in the line of duty has not been excessive and Fort Douglas stands third in the order of constant ineffectiveness from all causes combined. No disease especially prevailed.

FORT DUCHESNE, UTAH.

The sick rate has been the lowest of all, the disability from injury very light for a cavalry command and the combined ineffectiveness places this post at the top of the list. The homogeneity and isolation of the garrison doubtless in part account for this, but the inference may fairly be made that there is no local, physical, or other cause for ill-health.

FORT GRANT, A. T.

During the dry season Fort Grant suffered from insufficient water, apparently due in part to inadequate storage capacity and in part to a small original supply. There is reason to believe that underlying water in sufficient quantity could readily be reached and utilized, but this has not been done.

The region of which Fort Grant is the centre has been the scene of a great deal of activity among the cavalry, but the sick rate proper has been very low. The injuries incident to a cavalry command, however, reduced its relative combined ineffectiveness.

FORT HUACHUCA, A. T.

Nothing of special medical or sanitary interest occurred during the year.

FORT LOGAN, COLORADO.

This post suffered from a sharp attack of epidemic influenza and its percentage of constantly sick was the greatest of any. Six cases of typhoid fever occurred here, two of them being in recruits of less than one week's service. It is probable that the other cases arose outside the limits of the reservation. The rate of both sickness and injury in the line of duty at Fort Logan has been high, but the daily ineffectiveness not in the line of duty was very high, being more than one per cent. of the command present. This is probably to be attributed to the proximity of Denver.

As foreshadowed by the Medical Director in 1892, the disposition of the sewage at Fort Logan has become a source of complaint by the civil authorities.

SAN CARLOS, A. T.

This is a sub-post of Fort Grant, and its garrison of one troop of cavalry, exclusive of the Medical Department, is changed monthly. Their sick do not accompany the troops to San Carlos, and when practicable those taken sick return to Fort Grant at the expiration of their tour. Therefore, notwithstanding the extreme heat of the summer and other physical discomforts the sick rate of San Carlos is below the mean for the Department.

WHIPPLE BARRACKS, A. T.

Until within the last week of the fiscal year, the old and ill-arranged barracks of this post have been overcrowded and subject to much sanitary criticism. The disposal of waste has not been satisfactory and the water supply not above suspicion. There were six cases of typhoid fever of undetermined origin, but probably dependent upon the adjacent town of Prescott. The constant ineffectiveness from alcohol, .113 per

cent. of the command, was greater than at any other post. Analysis of the reports shows this to depend chiefly on multiple entries, as for example a sergeant losing 66 days on five different occasions, a corporal 14 days on four occasions, and a private 18 days on seven admissions to sick report. The reduction of the garrison that has just occurred will probably improve the sick rate by the increased relative air space.

FORT WINGATE, N. M.

This post continues to maintain its reputation of having a high sick rate due to local conditions and in spite of excellent administration.

Fort Wingate stands on the northerly slope of a mountain range over a deep and heavy clay soil. There is sub-soil dampness the most of the year from the overflow of springs above the post, but during the hot and drier season the surface soil is baked and the harm from it is reduced to a minimum. But in the winter and spring rains and melting snow bring the ground water to a very high level, and there is an immediate outbreak of severe sickness attributable to that condition. Thus, for six months July-December inclusive, 1895, the percentage constantly sick was 2.17 of the command, that for December having been 1.60. For the four months January-April, 1896, inclusive, it averaged 3.91, the percentage of sick in April having the very high grade of 5.18 nearly the whole being in the line of duty. It fell to 2.69 in May and to 1.76 in June. The lower floors of the barracks there are close to the ground, and as might be anticipated the most of the sickness was among men occupying those rooms.

The local conditions are such that effective sub-soil drainage would be very costly and difficult, but a properly constructed intercepting or "header" drain could be made to carry off most of the underground water coming upon the post. It is understood that a relatively dry site presents itself a few hundred yards away. If that is the case, Fort Wingate adds

another to the list of military locations determined in ignorance or in defiance of sanitary laws.

While this report was in preparation the barracks in question have been burned, and I am informed that two of them will be re-built on the old site but with provision for ventilation under the lower story, and with the dormitories in the second story.

There was a moderate epidemic of influenza in the spring.

One very severe case of typhoid fever that recovered occurred at Fort Wingate, for which no direct cause could be found.

Five men received for treatment from without the department are thus accounted for:

DISEASES.	RECEIVED,							RES'ULTS			
	From				At			Dischd			
	Fort Reno.	Fort Yates.	Fort Leavenworth.	Vancouver Barracks.	Whipple Barracks.	Fort Wingate.	Fort Apache.	For disability.	Exp. of service.	Returned to duty	Remaining.
Tuberculosis of the lungs.....		2			1	1		1	1		
Chronic bronchitis.....				1		1				1	
Chronic pneumonia and pleurisy.....	1						1				1
Chronic articular rheumatism.....			1		1			1			
Total.....	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1

During the year operating rooms have been prepared and equipped in all the hospitals according to the latest requirements of sanitary surgery, under the special instructions of the Surgeon General.

No hospitals nor stewards' quarters have been constructed during the year, but repairs have been carried out as follows:

POSTS.	Hospitals.	Hospital Stewards' Quarters.	Total.	
Apache	\$ 507.15	\$ 115.89	\$ 623.04	
Bayard	99.31	33.00	132.31	
Douglas	1,091.00	67.40	1,158.40	
Duchesne	153.40	.....	153.40	
Grant	155.24	.....	155.24	
Huachuca.....	633.75	129.50	763.25	
Logan.....	2,649.04	.....	2,649.04	Hospital Enlarged.
Whipple	122.40	.....	122.40	
Wingate.....	634.31	17.50	651.81	
Total.....	\$6,045.60	\$363.29	\$6,408.89	

Fort Stanton was discontinued January 16, 1896, previous to which all the medical property was turned into depot for re-issue, transferred to other posts, or sold, as its condition required.

The ice machines under the control of the Medical Department continued to supply large quantities of ice gratuitously to the sick and at very low cost to the well, and thus materially increased the comfort of both classes.

Practice marches covering two hundred miles each were made from all the posts except Fort Douglas. Under instructions from this office the medical officers made very full reports of everything pertaining to the medical and sanitary condition of the troops, and in January last a careful summary of those reports was presented to the Department Commander. I invite renewed attention to the facts and opinions there stated, all of which have a direct practical bearing upon the

efficiency of troops in the field. The sections on packs, on shoes, and on the use of kola in muscular fatigue seem to me particularly important.

With the concurrence of the Department Commander three sets of Problems in Medical Administration have been sent out at quarterly intervals to the medical officers serving in this department. There have been three problems in each set in accordance with the three grades of such officers, and their object has been to give medical officers a formal opportunity of considering practical questions that may arise outside of ordinary post routine and, by their consideration in anticipation, of preparing themselves for more active service. These problems are not in the nature of examinations, but are offered as forms of duty corresponding to those that the Lyceum presents to officers of the line. After the solutions are received a general discussion is made in this office, and where it seems desirable private comment is added. Speaking generally, the solutions presented have shown an active and intelligent interest in the subjects treated.

PERSONNEL OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT:

	Lieutenant Colonels	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Total commissioned.	Hospital Stewards.	Actg. Hospital Stewards.	Privates.	Total enlisted.	Aggregate.
Attached 30th June, 1895.....	1	4	9	7	21	13	9	57	79	100
Transferred into the dept	1	1	1	7	10	.....	.....	7	7	17
Joined by promotion .....	.....	1	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Joined by enlistment.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	4	9	9
Joined by transfer from line..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	14	14
Joined by appointment.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2	2
Total to be accounted for..	2	6	11	14	33	15	14	82	111	144
Transferred out of the dept..	1	1	2	3	7	1	.....	1	2	9
Lost by promotion.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Wholly retired.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Dischd. by expn. of enlstmnt.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	9	14	14
Discharged otherwise.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	13	13
Lost by appointment.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	2
Retired.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	3	3
Died .....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total loss.....	1	1	5	4	11	3	3	28	34	45
Attached 30th June, 1896.....	1	5	6	10	22	12	11	54	77	99
Present for duty	1	5	5	10	21	12	10	53	75	96
Absent with leave.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	2
Absent sick .....	.....	.....	*1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

* In the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Two officers present are unfit on account of their health for field duty of any severity. The medical force is adequate when all are for duty and the troops are in garrison. Neither officers nor men are sufficient when troops take the field, for the force required for the permanent hospital administration is not materially diminished. During this year detachments were repeatedly in the field with the Medical Department necessarily unrepresented.

Captain Carter Nelson Berkeley Macauley, of the Medical Department, died the 6th of February, 1896, at Fort Logan, Colorado, after a short illness with epidemic influenza complicated with pleurisy, while on temporary duty from Fort Apache, A. T. He was an enthusiastic and personally a most attractive medical officer, admirable in all the social relations, whose loss has been deeply and persistently regretted.

To my regret and I believe to the disadvantage of the service I have been refused an opportunity to inspect. Consequently I have no personal knowledge of the condition of any post. Denial of inspection duty divests the senior medical officer of the intelligent oversight that he is presumed to exercise and deprives him of information useful in the recommendations that he may be called upon to make. It leaves the medical officers at the posts with no opportunity for the personal discussion or explanation of the serious and often important questions that are liable to arise in connection with the prevention as well as the treatment of disease, and the junior officers in particular have no aid in the conduct of affairs that sometimes are delicate. No inspector of the line is fitted to advise or indeed to investigate in strictly medical matters, or has competent sanitary equipment. It is unfair to those medical officers that they should be debarred the encouragement, or if necessary the warning, that a sympathetic senior can give; and it is quite unjust to the troops under their care that there may not be occasional careful and kindly supervision, such as has always heretofore obtained in

our own and in every other civilized army. The Medical Department, which is unique in its functions, is thus abandoned to circumstances that may as readily be adverse as auspicious. The isolated condition of the commands aggravates the evil. If the functions of this office are to be limited to those of a supervising clerk correcting and noting formal reports, medical administration and so much of military efficiency as depends upon it will suffer.

As far as the formal reports indicate, the duties of the medical officers have been efficiently performed, the supplies are adequate, and the sanitary conditions, except as heretofore noted, good. I am personally acquainted with but eight of the twenty one officers on duty at the posts, and I have no knowledge of the drill, the special instruction or the efficiency of the Hospital Corps. I believe, however, that both the officers and the enlisted men of the Medical Department compare favorably in intelligence and in the discharge of their duties with those in other parts of the military service. Except in occasional cases no complaint has been received as to the privates, and the non-commissioned officers are reported as doing their duty well and in some instances with special excellence.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED A. WOODHULL,

*Lt. Col., Dep. Sgn. Gen.,
Chief Surgeon.*

